

Washington, DC – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2) today sent a letter to Governor Nathan Deal to highlight the possible adverse results from the Governor's proposed changes to the Georgia Family Connection Partnerships (GaFCPs). Governor Deal is proposing to consolidate and transfer appropriated funds away from the Department of Human Services and directing them to the Governor's Office for Children & Families (GOCF).

The Governor's proposal could change the public-private model for raising funds. Further, transferring the GaFCPs' appropriation to GOCF will inhibit collaborative organizations' ability to leverage dollars once their money and local decision-making ability is absorbed into a state agency. The present public-private partnership has increased involvement of local businesses and community leaders, which enhances the success of the GaFCPs throughout the State of Georgia.

A complete copy of the letter is below:

Dear Governor Deal,

I am very familiar with the work of Georgia Family Connection in the Second Congressional District. Calhoun County Family Connection, Early County Family Connection along with many other local organizations have expressed concern regarding the proposed consolidation and transfer of appropriated funds from Georgia Family Connection Partnership to the Governor's Office for Children and Families. Georgia Family Connection believes this is a bad idea because the consolidation and defunding of this initiative will adversely affect local collaboration and coordination along with the autonomy in the 159 county organizations throughout the state.

During these challenging economic times, it is vital that the many public-private partnerships that Georgia Family Connection Partnership has developed over many years continue into the future. In Early County for example, this partnership has resulted in increased support and improved results for families and their children. It therefore is important to ensure Georgia Family Connection's continued success across the state, and I urge you to keep their concerns in mind as you finalize the state's FY12 budget.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

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